Automatisation will be carried out subject to the availability of the required resources.

It is proposed to convert the remaining manual exchanges into automatic exchanges during the 8th Plan period.

(c) In view of (b) above, does not arise.

Post offices in villages

500. SHRI MOSTAFA BIN QUASEM: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of villages in the country which do not have a post office at present, State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the steps so far taken by Government to open post offices there?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) The required information is furnished in the enclosed statement; (*See* below).

(b) For opening of post offices villages are grouped together so that there is a minimum level of postal traffic to justify the part-time or full-time postal establishment provided for the purpose. The post office set up in one village serves the other villages attached to it also. For this purpose the branch postmaster the delivery agent, the village postman or other postal employee visits the attached villages on a regular basis, daily in most cases. Therefore, the question of opening a post office in every village does not arise. However, in cases where the area or population served by a rural post office exceeds its capacity for effective service, subject to various constraints that may exist, the possibility of opening an additional post office is considered. So far, during the Seventh Plan, new rural post offices were not opened due to the ban on creation of posts. Lately there has been some relaxation in respect of Plan schemes and consequently the Department is making a fresh assessment in the whole matter.

Statement

Number of rural Post Offices and villages

States	No. of villages	No. of rural post offices	Villages served by the POs shown in Col. (3)
1	2	3	4
1. Andhra Pradesh	27.379	14,675	12.704
2. Assam	21,995	3,070	18,925
3. Arunachal Pradesh	3 257	231	3,026
4. Bihar	67,546	10,269	57.277
5. Gujarat	18,114	7,784	10.330
6. Haryana	6,745	2,154	4,591
7. Himachal Pradesh	16,807	2,334	14,473
8. Jammu & Kashmir	6,477	1,303	5,174

1	2	3	4
9. Karnataka	27.028	8,232	18,796
10. Kerala	1,219	4,018	..
11. Madhya Pradesh	71,352	9,492	61,860
12. Maharashtra	39,354	10,466	28,888
13. Manipur	2,035	525	1,510
14. Meghalaya	4,902	390	4,512
15. Mizoram	721	242	479
16. Nagaland	1,112	236	876
17. Orissa	46,553	6,989	29,564
18. Punjab	12,342	3,292	9,050
19. Rajasthan	34,968	8,811	26,157
20. Sikkim	440	113	327
21. Tirpura	856	571	285
22. Tamilnadu	15,831	9,741	6,090
23. Uttar Pradesh	1,12,568	16,317	96,251
24. West Bengal	38,024	7,017	31,007
Union Territories			
1. Andaman & Nicobar Islands	491	66	425
2. Chandigarh	24	7	17
3. Delhi	214	152	62
4. Goa, Daman & Diu	412	216	196
5. Dadar & Nagar Haveli	70	30	40
6. Lakshdweep	7	10	—
7. Pondicherry	291	57	234
	5,79,134	1,28,810	4,53,126

Telephone exchanges in the country

501. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of manual telephone exchanges functioning in the country, till now, State-wise details thereof; and

(b) the number of automatic telephone exchanges functioning in the country till date, State-wise details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI SANTOSH MOHAN DEV): (a) and (b) The details of the telephone exchanges Manual and Automatic statewise working in the country as on 31-3-86 are given in the statement laid on the Table of the House.